United Nations A/59/163–S/2004/585

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
21 July 2004
English
Original: English and Russian

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Items 27 and 40 of the provisional agenda*

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 19 July 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Bishkek Declaration adopted during the high-level international conference "Afghanistan and Regional Economic Cooperation: Central Asia, Iran and Pakistan", organized by the United Nations Development Programme in Bishkek from 10 to 12 May 2004 (see annex).

On behalf of the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and as a representative of the country where the conference took place, I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 27 and 40 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kainar **Toktomushev**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/59/150.

04-43470 (E) 220704 220704

Annex to the letter dated 19 July 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Bishkek Declaration of the International Conference "Afghanistan and regional economic cooperation: Central Asia, Iran and Pakistan" Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (10 to 12 May 2004)

We, the participants in the International Conference "Afghanistan and regional economic cooperation: Central Asia, Iran and Pakistan", representing the Governments and business circles of our countries,

Highly appreciative of the emerging positive developments in the process of post-conflict revitalization of Afghanistan, including the adoption of the Constitution, revival of a functioning National Government, strengthening of domestic political stability and measures taken to reconstruct the economy and infrastructure,

Expressing the hope that the universal presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled to take place in autumn 2004 in Afghanistan will lay a solid foundation for institutional transformations, effective governance and democratic development,

Noting in particular that the restoration of Afghanistan's vitality, the achievement of peace and security in its territory and the development of a national economy and State institutions open up new perspectives and opportunities for the entire region,

Welcoming the active and extensive efforts of the international community for the reconstruction of Afghanistan and its regional and global integration, including the recent pledges by donor countries of US$ 8.2 billion for Afghanistan, made following the Berlin Conference (2004),

Confirming the continuity of the decisions of the three previous conferences on Afghanistan held in Bonn (2001), Tokyo (2002) and Berlin (2004), as well the Kabul Declaration on Goodneighbourly Relations (2002) and the Dubai Declaration on encouraging closer trade, transit and investment cooperation (2003),

Recognizing the central and leading role of the United Nations and of the Government of Afghanistan in organizing international assistance to the Afghan people and in the reconstruction of the country,

Note that the progress achieved in stabilizing the domestic political situation in Afghanistan highlights the importance of economic and social indicators,

Consider that economic cooperation among Afghanistan's neighbours will accelerate its recovery, bring stability to the region and provide a basis for the pursuit of the common economic interests of the whole region,

Emphasize that Afghanistan is our natural regional partner in the spheres of industrial cooperation, investment, trade and transit among the neighbouring States of Central and Southern Asia, Iran and Pakistan,

Highlight the importance of Afghanistan's pursuit of policies designed to ensure secure transit trade with all its neighbours, and the need to harmonize the legislation of the Central Asian States, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan in that sphere,

Confirm our readiness to participate in programmes for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, to provide humanitarian, technical and advisory assistance to it in various areas of activity and to facilitate private sector initiatives,

Particularly note the fruitful discussions on the prerequisites for sustainable economic development, including transit and transport infrastructure, trade and investment policies, communications and energy distribution,

Emphasizing the role of the private sector in expanding economic cooperation and reconstruction in Afghanistan, *we urge* support for this sector through the establishment of an export and investment guarantee fund by donor countries to Afghanistan,

Urge donor countries, international financial institutions and humanitarian organizations to increase their participation in the comprehensive revival of the Afghan State,

Express gratitude to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for the convening and holding of this highly important Conference, organized for the purpose of promoting the active development of regional cooperation in achieving the proclaimed goals and tasks,

Deem it important to bring this Declaration to the attention of the United Nations.